

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 53

By Watson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Paul C. Thompson of Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Paul C. Thompson; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thompson was an exemplary public servant and consummate physician who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thompson served with acumen and alacrity as a surgeon for the orthopedic community of Chattanooga, in which position he earned the respect of his colleagues and patients alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Duke Medical School, Dr. Thompson played football for four years as an undergraduate at Duke, including playing in the 1942 Rose Bowl; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thompson nobly served his country as a Navy doctor until the end of World War II; and

WHEREAS, a true innovator in joint replacement, Dr. Thompson worked tirelessly to develop the Thompson-Parkridge-Richards ankle, one of the first total ankle prostheses used in the United States and for which Dr. Thompson received widespread acclaim in his field; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thompson helped found Parkridge Hospital, where he also steadfastly toiled as Chief of Staff during his thirty-five year tenure as a surgeon in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, ever broadening his superlative professional horizons, Dr. Thompson was an active member of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, the Piedmont Orthopedic Society, the Southern Medical Society, the American College of Surgeons, the Tennessee Orthopedic Society, and the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thompson was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thompson enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Frances Coleman Thompson, who preceded him in death; he is survived by three daughters and sons-in-law, Diana and Gus Bell, Francie and Tom Chambers, and Betsy and John Bakhaus; two sons and daughters-in-law, Paul Jr. and Jeanne Thompson, and Jim and Margaret Thompson; twelve grandchildren; and a sister; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thompson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional surgeon and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Paul C. Thompson, reflecting fondly upon his pioneering work in total joint replacement and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Paul C. Thompson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.